

18th July 2014

Joyce Melrose
Energy Consents
Scottish Government
4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow G2 8LU

Dear Ms Melrose

Response to scoping request – Aberchalder wind farm

Ramblers Scotland is pleased to respond to the request for information relating to the scoping report for the Aberchalder wind farm, east of Invergarry and to the south of Fort Augustus. We have two comments to make:

1. We appreciate that the Scottish Government published its planning documents, NPF3 and SPP, shortly before this scoping request was made, but it would be helpful if the document makes clear the extent to which the proposed wind farm falls within core wild land area 19, as per the Scottish Natural Heritage map of core wild land areas, and the extent to which it is visible from other areas of wild land.
2. It is our opinion that this wind farm cannot be seen in isolation, but the cumulative impact of a series of wind farms on either side of the Great Glen at this location must also be taken into account, with a map showing these other sites. Together, these will have a significant impact on the landscape and recreation interest in this area. For example, according to SNH's wind farm map dated August 2013, within 20km of the Aberchalder proposed site there are operational/approved wind farms at Beinneun, Glenmoriston, Dunmaglass and Glenurquhart & Strathglass, while Stronelaig also recently received consent. In addition, applications for wind farms at Bhlaraidh and Corriegarth have been lodged, while scoping is taking place at Dell and Beinn Mhor.

We would be happy to discuss any issues arising from these points.

Yours sincerely

Helen Todd
Campaigns & Policy Manager

cc: Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd, info@arcusconsulting.co.uk

Ramblers Scotland is the representative body for walkers in Scotland and recognised by **sportscotland** as a governing body of sport. Our charitable aims are to promote walking, secure and facilitate access to land, and to protect the countryside. We have around 6,400 members in Scotland and 54 local walking groups, all run by volunteers.

President: Dr Andrew Murray
Convener: David Thomson
Director: Dave Morris

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